

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 650

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6206

LIMDIS

EMBASSY FOR DEA; DEA WASH FOR EOIL/CUSACK PLS PASS TO STRICKLER
AND MAUREEN SULLIVAN/TIT FROM SAIC FRANGULLIE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SNAR

SUBJECT: GENERAL ERNESTO BRAEZ MICHELSON'S VISIT TO WASHDC
ON OCTOBER 3 AND 4, 1974

REF: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 9722

AT 5:30 PM ON OCT 9, 1974 SAIC FRANGULLIE VISITED CHILEAN
INVESTIGACIONES HEADQUARTERS TO INQUIRE AS TO THE RESULTS OF
GEN BAEZA'S RECENT VISIT TO DEA HQS IN WASHDC. SAIC'S VISIT
WAS THE MOST SURPRISING AND UNCOMFORTABLE ONE THAT HE HAS HAD
DURING HIS TOUR IN CHILE.

MR. JAIME VASQUEZ, CHIEF OF INTERPOL, RELATED THE FOLLOWING:
THE TREATMENT OF GEN BAEZA AND HIS THREE OFFICIALS AT THE
NEW YORK AIRPORT WAS VERY GOOD. THE PROBLEM BEGAN WITH THE
ARRIVAL IN WASHDC. THE GEN AND HIS GROUP WERE IMMEDIATELY
ESCORTED TO THE BARBIZON TERRACE HOTEL FOR LODGING. THIS
HOTEL WAS IN THE GEN'S OPINION EQUIVALENT TO A THIRD-CLASS
HOTEL IN CHILE. IT WAS OLD, HAD NO ROOM SERVICE OR RESTAURANT,
AND THE CHEST OF DRAWERS WAS LOCATED UNDER THE BEDS. THE GEN
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BECAME VERY ANGRY AT THE SIGHT OF THE ROOM AND CALLED A
FRIEND OF HIS, GEN CARRASCO, DEFENSE ATTACHE OF THE CHILEAN

EMBASSY. GEN BAEZA CHECKED OUT OF THE HOTEL IMMEDIATELY AND WAS LODGED AT CARRASCO'S RESIDENCE. THE GEN'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO LEAVE THE U.S. IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN TO CHILE.

COL. JORGE ARO ALSO CHECKED OUT AND WAS LODGED AT A RELATIVE'S RESIDENCE. MR. VASQUEZ AND MR. RENE NAVARRO REMAINED AT THE HOTEL SINCE THEY HAD NO FRIENDS IN THE US. THE OFFICIALS HAD TO WALK SEVERAL BLOCKS TO FIND A RESTAURANT AND, SINCE THEY COULD NOT SPEAK ENGLISH, HAD MANY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS ATTEMPTING TO ORDER FOOD. MR. VASQUEZ CUT HIS LEG ON A PROTRUDING PORTION OF THE OLD BED IN THE HOTEL ROOM.

NO ONE IN WASH OFFERED TO SHOW THE OFFICIALS ANY OF THE INTERESTING SIGHTS OF THE CAPITOL. ON THE DAY THE OFFICIALS WERE TO VISIT WITH THE FBI THEY WERE SENT ALONE BY TAXI TO THE FBI HQS. ON COMPLETION OF THEIR MEETING WITH DEA ON THE FOURTH OF OCT, THEY WERE ESCORTED TO THE FIRST FLOOR ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING AND TOLD GOODBYE. THE GEN MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A VEHICLE FROM THE CHILEAN EMBASSY, SINCE HE HAD NOT BEEN ASSIGNED ANYONE TO DRIVE HIM AROUND, SO THAT AT LEAST HE COULD ASSURE HIMSELF OF A RIDE TO THE AIRPORT. A DRIVER HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE GROUP BUT THIS LASTED ONLY A FEW HOURS AND THE DRIVER DISAPPEARED AND WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN. THIS GROUP HAD TRAVELED ALL OVER EUROPE AND AT EACH COUNTRY WERE GIVEN FIRST-CLASS TREATMENT AND STAYED AT THE BEST HOTELS. TO THEIR SURPRISE, THE WORST TREATMENT RECEIVED WAS IN WASHDC.

COMMENT: SAIC FRANGULLIE RECEIVED THE ABOVE REPORT FROM TWO OFFICIALS WHO WERE WITH THE GEN ON HIS TRIP, AND THESE ARE THE GEN'S PERSONAL FEELINGS AS EXPRESSED TO HIS OFFICERS. THE SAIC HAS BEEN TOO EMBARRASSED TO MEET WITH THE GEN AND DOES NOT REALLY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. THE GEN HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE HE RETURNS TO THE U.S. DEA HAS RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY COOPERATION FROM THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, BUT THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS TAKEN THE SDO OVER A YEAR AND A HALF TO BUILD HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. GEN BAEZA IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL POLICE OF ALL OF CHILE AND A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE. HE
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WILL MAKE HIS OFFICIAL TRIP REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE, GEN AUGUSTO PINOCHET, ON OCT 10, 1974. WE CAN ANTICIPATE THAT THIS REPORT WILL BE VERY HARMFUL TO DEA'S ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

U.S. MISSION SANTIAGO REQUESTED THAT THIS CABLE BE SENT TO SECSTATE.
POPPER

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